

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 6, 2004 (BOS Mtg. 12/21/04)

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Revisions

As the Board is aware, the York County Commissioner of Revenue administers the County's Tax Relief Program for Elderly and Disabled individuals in the County pursuant to section 21-40 *et. seq.* of the York County Code. Program guidelines are established as authorized by the Code of Virginia, Section 58.1-3211.

During the 2004 session of the General Assembly, eligibility thresholds for the tax relief program were expanded. At your work session on September 14, 2004, the Board reviewed these most recent changes to the Virginia Code as relate to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief program offered by the County. To summarize those changes:

- Total net worth, previously capped at \$100,000 may be increased to \$200,000.
- Maximum income allowances for family members increased from \$8,500 to \$10,000 and the allowance for a disability, previously set at \$7,500, increased to \$10,000.
- The total number of acres that can be exempted increased from one (1) to a maximum of ten (10).

In addition to incorporating these new limits into our existing tax relief program, the County may increase the allowable income for eligible households to the state defined maximum of \$50,000.

Subsequent to the September 14<sup>th</sup> work session, staff was directed to take the program eligibility limits to the maximum allowable under State Code. On November 30, 2004 staff presented the Board with a program draft that incorporated the Board's instruction. Specifically the revised County program:

- Increases the maximum income for eligible households to \$50,000.
- Increased the income exemption for relatives (other than the spouse) who reside in the home from \$6,500 to \$10,000.

- Increases the income exemption for disabled qualifiers from \$7,500 to \$10,000.
- Increases the net worth exclusion from \$100,000 to \$200,000.
- Increases the acreage exempted from 1 acre to 10 acres.

**Recommendation**

Based on increasing property values and the growing elderly population in York County, it is important to provide tax relief to eligible property owners. In light of recent revisions to the Code of Virginia that enable localities to increase the eligibility thresholds for Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief, I recommend adoption of proposed Ordinance No. 04-32.

Rogers/4108

Attachment:

- Ordinance No. 04-32—Proposed Revisions to Sections 21-41, 21-42, and 21-44 of the York County Code